HISTORY of the ADVENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH in the State of WASHINGTON
Early Beginnings
(from "Advent Christian History" - Albert C. Johnson)

In 1878, Dr. William Chapman left Iowa and migrated to the Pacific Coast finally locating in Goldendale, Washington Territory. This was then a small town, with but one church and one schoolhouse, and the early settlers were often disturbed by Indian scares and raids. In this schoolhouse Dr. Chapman spread out his chart and lectured to the people. The town prospered and later became the county seat of Klickitat County. Soon after this he saw in the "World's Crisis" (magazine) that Eld. J. C. Smith and his wife were then located at Walla Walla City, and after correspondence they joined forces with the doctor and through the united efforts of these workers the seed was scattered all over Washington, Oregon and Idaho. The field of theor labors was mostly in Oregon, but they also labored in many places in Washington, and on both sides of Snake River for many miles clear to Lewiston in Idaho.

IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

The work in Oregon and Washington was conducted in part by the same pioneers and in many ways its history intermingles, but we will now, as best we can, narrate more especially the work in Washington. From this early mission campaign, briefly given above, sprang the first Advent Christian Conference of the Pacific Northwest, which was organized at Columbus, Washington, in the year1884. Its organization being promoted by Eld. J. C. Smith and wife, and Dr. William Chapman, who was recognized as the first Advent Christian preacher in what is now the State of Washington. The principle ministers at the time of organization, aside from those mentioned above were James Wheelhouse, Aaron Preston, George H. Little, and Eld. Pickell. At this time Alonzo Dix and James A. Orchard were ordained ministers. Later Eld. M. McFadyen of Washington, and Eld. Guy Porter of California, came into this conference.

In 1886 Eld. McFayden was sent to the Puget Sound country as an evangelist. Some work had been done in this section near where Sumas now is, and around Nooksack, then called Tuxedo, and a company of Advent Christians were gathered together. The real pioneer work of this faith in Puget Sound was done by Eld. Guy Porter, Elds. McFayden and George W. Ketchum, who were aided in the work by Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Massey. Rufus Stearns was ordained to the ministry and did much to support the truth in the Sound region and was the chief instrument in the organization of the Bellingham, Advent Christian Church. In 1890 Bro. A. W. Steers and wife, Nettie Hoyt Steers, visited Seattle and held a series of tent meetings in the city which resulted in the organization of an Advent Christian Church. Dr. Chapman removed to Seattle and there held many positions of honor, being on the city counsel for some nine years, also serving as pastor of the A. C. Church for a similar term of years. Dr. Chapman was an able physician, a man of untarnished character, called one of the best and noblest Advent Christian preachers of the Northwest.

For some time Oregon and Washington were included in one conference, but in 1891 the territory was divided and the Washington Advent Christian Conference was organized separately with Eld. W. H. Synder, president, and A. W. Steers, secretary. In 1895, Eld. E. H. Carman and others organized the Western Washington and British Columbia Campmeeting Association. The following year at a meeting in Nooksack, the conference and campmeeting organizations were consolidated under the name of the Advent Christian Conference of Western Washington and British Columbia. At this place they established a permanent

location for an annual campmeeting, which has been successfully continued each year since. Here they built a six-sided tabernacle, sixty-four feet in diameter, capable of seating 800 people, and on the grounds they have a commodious and well-appointed lodging house and dining rooms.

HISTORY OF THE SEATTLE ADVENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH
written by Mrs. Charles Kent

Following is an account of the early history of the Seattle Advent Christian Church as nearly accurate as I can ascertain from notes of my father, Dr. Wm. Chapman, and later information in our early Church Bulletins.

The church was organized by Dr. Wm. Chapman early in 1891.

Dr. Chapman and his little band built a small rough, one room building on Warren Ave. at the foot of Queen Anne Hill. This little building stood in the center of a regular mud hole; no paved streets and only board walks, no carpets on the floor, an old wood heater, rough benches which were not conducive to sleeping during the sermon! No organ , of course, for in those days it was considered a sin to have an organ or piano in the church. However, a few of the "moderns" of those days decided to buy an organ. These fortunately were in the majority so the tuning fork was laid aside and an organ was purchased. Oil lamps were the lighting fixtures.

In a short time the little group had to give up their building as Seattle was progressing, so they moved to a one-story structure on Third Avenue between Madison and Marion streets and from there to an abandoned Presbyterian Church at the corner of Third and Madison Street. Here the group divided and services were also held in what was called the "New York Block" at Second and Cherry Streets. This second group moved from the New York Block to a lovely little chapel built by themselves at the corner of 11th N.E. and 47th in the University District, while the original group purchased an old church building on James Street, back of the old "Power House" which furnished the power for the James Street Cable cars.

Eventually, finding there were not enough Adventists to warrant the two churches, the University property was sold and the money, $1650. was turned over to the James Street Church with the understanding that it was to be used toward the erection of a better building in a different location, as the James Street church was surrounded by Greeks, Jews and Italians, all having their own church affiliations.

Sunday School classes were held in portable buildings in the front yard (there was no back yard).

Dr. Wm. Chapman, Elder S. P. Hayward, Frank Baker and Elder B. Forester served as Pastors during these early years, in the order named.

In November 1919, with the money from the sale of the University property, the executive board decided to do something about adding to this fund and hence decided to put on a New Church Building program.

Managers of this fund were: Dr. J. B. Chapman, Eldon Scott, Ed Forester and Gladys Britton.

This committee set a goal of twenty-five thousand dollars in two years and announced: "Failure has not and will not be considered." Proof that they did not fail is the fact that today we are holding services in a building which, I believe, cost over forty thousand dollars.

The membership of our church at the time we felt we needed a newer and larger church was 82 resident and 30 non- residents making a total of 112 members.

The building program was started with a pep rally, speeches and refreshments, and from then on, with our hands in our own pockets and everyone else's, the building finances grew, drawing 6% interest at the bank.

In January of 1921 Brother Lee E. Baker and his wife arrived to be our Pastor and with their youth and enthusiasm - from then on the building program went forward with success beyond our dreams.

The present site at 13th and E. Olive was selected and purchased in May of 1921, for the sum of one thousand, seven hundred and fifty dollars.

On the committee appointed to consider plans were: Lee E. Baker, George Tripp and C. W. Cropp. The contract for building was signed in March with Western Construction Co. and ground breaking ceremonies also were held in March 1922.

In May the corner stone was laid with Pastor Baker in charge, with the ministers: Lucas, Lobb, Keepers, Armstrong assisting. Dr. J. B. Chapman also assisted. Rough benches were put up inside for the congregation.

Dedication services had to be postponed due to the pews not being shipped as planned. Finally in December, this church building we had dreamed, hoped and planned for, became a wonderful reality and dedication services were held.

The theme of the last service held in the old "Power House" church was "Memories." It was a sad and also glad occasion. Verses written by Mrs. C. E. Kent, for this service were read, the last verse as follows:

Dear Church, as we go from old to new
Our labor of love is far from through.
We bend our knees in sincere prayer
And pray God's blessings will follow there
So now old church, full of memories dear
We must move on and leave you here.

Dr. Jenks of Aurora preached the Dedication Sermon in the afternoon. Pastor Baker had the morning service and Pastor Keepers of the Nooksack Church, the evening service.

Following is the list of Pastors to date:

Dr. W. Chapman	Dr. Alvin Lobb
Elder S. P. Hayward	Rev. P. H. Jaffarian
Frank E. Baker	Rev. M. H. Farnam
Elder B. Forester	Rev. Paul Vannah 1953 - 1961
Rev. Lee Baker	REV. CLIO THOMAS 1961 -
	& REV. RICK REYNOLDS

This Booklet prepared by Rev. Paul Vannah for the Service of Rededication of our Lower Church Auditorium on May 6, 1956

HAVE WE DEDICATTED OUR LWR AUDITORIUM REMODELED MAY, 1987.